



USAID
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TANZANIA

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RFI Number: 720621-NRMGOVERNANCE-FY2019

Issuance Date: February 20, 2019

Response Due Date and Time: March 13, 2019, 8:00AM East Africa Time

Response Email Address: anganga@usaid.gov and usaidtzco@usaid.gov

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The United States Government (USG) represented by the Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, posts this Request for Information (RFI) to inform an upcoming natural resources management activity designed to strengthen community and government capacity to manage natural resources in the Rukwa region. The purpose of this RFI is to 1) solicit feedback on the attached draft concept and 2) identify qualified Tanzanian organizations capable of implementing the program. However, the USG reserves the right to not issue a Request for Application for this potential procurement.

The attached concept note presents the draft objectives and key elements of the activity. The level of funding allocated for this activity is expected to range between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million over a five-year implementation period.

This RFI is not a Request for Application or Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and in no way commits USAID to issue a NOFO or to make an award. Please note that responding to this RFI will not give any advantage to or preclude any organization or individual from any Request for Application that may be subsequently issued as any/all comments received will be strictly for information gathering purposes only. USAID will not pay for any costs associated with responding to this RFI. Information received in response to this RFI shall become the property of USAID, therefore, information that cannot be shared should not be sent.

Responses to this RFI must be submitted by email only to Agnes Ng'anga at anganga@usaid.gov with a copy to usaidtzco@usaid.gov no later than the date and time shown above. When responding, please include 720621-NRMGOVERNANCE-FY2019 in the email subject line. Responders will not receive individualized feedback. All inquiries concerning this RFI must be directed only to the email addresses identified above. Hard copy submissions will not be accepted nor will phone inquiries be entertained.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Best Regards,

David Arnett
Agreement Officer

Attachment: Response Requirements

Responses should include the following:

1. Cover page, not to exceed one (1) page, that includes
 - a. Organization name and address
 - b. Point of contact name, telephone number and email address
 - c. Legal registration status in Tanzania
 - d. A brief statement of interest that indicates the organization's interest in applying as a prime or sub-recipient. If a team or consortia is envisioned, please provide the names of the potential partner organizations.
2. Comments and questions on the concept note, not to exceed two (2) pages. USAID/Tanzania welcomes general comments on the concept note, for example feedback on the development hypothesis, including the intermediate results (IR). Do the IRs adequately address the problem? Are additional and/or different IRs needed? Other questions and comments are also welcome. This is not a formal question period; therefore, the government will not be providing responses. The USAID design team will review all comments and questions and use them to inform USAID/Tanzania in writing the Program Description.
3. Capacity statements, not to exceed one (1) page. Statements should include the following information:
 - a. Description of the organization's capacity to work with local government and communities to develop village land-use plans.
 - b. Description of the organization's capacity to work with local government and communities to develop and implement village bylaws around natural resources management.
 - c. Description of the organization's capacity to develop citizen capacity for social accountability monitoring.
4. Past performance references. In table format not to exceed two (2) pages, please provide the following information for relevant projects implemented by the organization:
 - a. Donor/funder name
 - b. Role: prime or sub-recipient
 - c. Location of implementation
 - d. Period of performance
 - e. Award amount in United States dollars
 - f. Brief description of the activities and results

No other documents or information is requested at this time. USAID asks respondents to not send any additional information other than what is requested above and to adhere to the page limits mentioned.

Concept Note

Introduction

Tanzania is endowed with abundant natural resources; however it remains on the United Nations list of Least Developed Countries, with the majority of the poor living in rural areas, dependent on natural resources. As the drivers of poverty and environmental degradation are linked, they must be addressed systematically in order to achieve sustainable economic development. This potential new activity will focus on local-level natural resources management in the Rukwa region. This will be achieved through building a strong foundation of inclusive governance and empowering citizens to participate in governance processes, particularly decision-making pertaining to natural resources management.

Geographic Focus

USAID is interested in supporting a potential award in the Rukwa region. Rukwa is dominated by the central Ufipa Plateau, which drops to the shores of Lake Tanganyika in the west and the Rukwa Valley in the east. This region is located in one of the most biodiverse areas of Tanzania, the Southern Highlands, which is part of the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot. Lake Rukwa is considered a Key Biodiversity Area, primarily for its importance to migratory bird species of conservation concern, though data are dated and the current status is unknown. Causes of environmental degradation and threats to biodiversity include logging, charcoal production, bush meat hunting, and unmanaged resource extraction. Pollution is another concern, with evidence suggesting that artisanal mining may be leading to accumulated heavy metals in Lake Rukwa. The area is affected by climate change, with increased temperatures and more intense droughts increasing the risk of wildfires. Additionally, rising temperatures and drought risks are affecting water availability, impacting both human communities and ecosystems.

Context

This potential new award would build on the findings of the 2017 USAID/Tanzania mid-term Whole of Project Evaluation (WOPE) and the 2018 Risk and Resilience Capacity Assessment. The WOPE was a mid-term performance evaluation of the NRM portfolio. Its purpose was to illuminate ways in which the NRM portfolio was making progress toward the stated project purpose, or not, and to identify the assumptions or gaps in the project's design and management approach to help inform course-corrections and/or a new project design. Among others, a key recommendation of the WOPE was to shift its programming to a broad-based approach focused on community-level engagement, including implementing a wider range of local-level governance tools and frameworks. In particular, procedural rights, such as access to information, public participation in decision making, and access to justice on environmental matters was recommended to be systematically integrated into all NRM activities, with special attention on engaging women and youth.

USAID's 2018 Risk and Resilience Capacity Assessment found that conflict over natural resources is a serious shock and stress to communities in Rukwa. With an area just under 22,800 square kilometers, Rukwa region is sparsely populated and largely rural (24% of a 1.2 million population). Nearly 70% of the population works in agriculture, livestock, and/or fisheries. Although the national economy has been growing rapidly for several years, this growth has not materialized in Rukwa, and youth unemployment is growing.

The people of Rukwa have lived with many environmental challenges— declining productivity of soils, seasonal flooding, conflict over natural resources—for decades. Deforestation of the Ufipa plateau for farm and grazing land has caused significant erosion that has resulted in the loss of fertile top soils and siltation in Lakes Rukwa and Tanganyika. Every three to four years, seasonal flooding causes total crop loss in low-lying areas. Conflict over natural resources is common between fishing communities and local government departments; conflict also arises between farmers and livestock keepers regarding the availability of pasturelands. These shocks and stresses are compounded by issues around unequal household dynamics as well as poor access to finance.

Many communities have developed their own coping strategies to deal with these challenges. Most prevalent are social networks that rely on individual or household relationships and social capital. Informal savings and loan groups are also present. Farmers and livestock keepers will enter into agreements concerning pasture use. Adaptive agriculture techniques include using manure as a fertilizer and limited intercropping. However, increasing pressures are now stretching the abilities of these communities to mitigate or cope with these risks.

Development Hypothesis

The development hypothesis for this award posits that by empowering citizens of Rukwa region to effectively engage in decision-making and governance processes related to the management of natural resources, local government will be more purposely held accountable. If this occurs, citizens will enjoy more equitable benefit sharing, stronger governance systems, reduced conflict over natural resources, and increased oversight of service delivery at the local government level. This in turn will strengthen the resilience of communities, ecosystems, and natural resources.

In order to achieve this goal, USAID will focus on three intermediate results (IRs):

- IR1: development of inclusive village land-use plans;
- IR2: development and effective implementation of village bylaws that integrate natural resource management and climate change; and
- IR3: improved capacity of communities to hold government institutions entrusted with managing natural resources accountable.

Gender and youth empowerment remain of critical interest to USAID/Tanzania. As with the rest of Tanzania, women and youth in Rukwa frequently hold little decision-making power in their communities; interventions across IRs will seek to understand and change this dynamic.